

## **TRANSPORTATION OF BURN PATIENTS**

**1813**

(No. 19 May 2008)

### **MINOR BURN PATIENTS**

**1813.1**

(No. 70 July 2008)

Those persons meeting the "minor" burn criteria needing medical treatment will be transported to an appropriate medical facility offering basic or comprehensive full service emergency care. Urgent Care facilities and clinics are not an acceptable source for the evaluation and treatment of burn injuries. Any minor burn(s) received during an entrapment, exposure to direct flame contact or exposure to superheated gases will be considered "serious" burns.

### **SERIOUS BURN PATIENTS**

**1813.2**

(No. 70 July 2008)

Those persons meeting the "serious" burn criteria will be transported to the nearest facility offering basic or comprehensive full service emergency care for initial evaluation and stabilization. After stabilization, patients with serious burns will be transported to a qualified regional burn center as soon as possible for evaluation, treatment and follow up. For California Burn Centers, see Emergency Command Center Procedures Handbook, Chapter 8100, ECC Operational Procedures -- Ready Reference (8100p800); see Definitions of Burn Care Facilities, and California Burn Centers [\[see exhibit\]](#) In all cases, the Agency Representative or Incident Commander has the discretion to request that burn injuries, regardless of their apparent severity, be evaluated at a qualified regional burn center.

The decision on the type of emergency transportation to use will be made cooperatively between the CAL FIRE care provider, Incident Commander, and the Emergency Command Center (ECC), taking into account the condition of the burn case and the availability of suitable emergency transportation. Methods of transportation may range from CAL FIRE equipment staffed by CAL FIRE personnel to ambulance or medivac units staffed by ALS personnel. When ALS personnel are caring for the patient, transportation will be based on local protocol.

When possible, at least one CAL FIRE employee will accompany the burn patient from the incident site to the treatment facility in order to maintain liaison with the ECC, interpret CAL FIRE policy, and provide for any other needs of the burned employee. If an appropriate person cannot go with the burn patient, it will be the ECC's responsibility

to arrange for someone to be dispatched to fill that role. The CAL FIRE employee accompanying the burn patient will stay until relieved of responsibilities or until the unit has completed formal liaison arrangements.

The patient, patient's physician, and patient's family (as appropriate) will determine when and to which burn center the patient will be transported after stabilization. The CAL FIRE Nurse Practitioner will be available to assist with this decision, as necessary. (See [Section 1819](#) ,Responsibilities of Nurse Practitioner.)

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)